

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

This final environmental impact statement (FEIS) was written by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to comply with the State Environmental Policy Act. It analyzes and evaluates the Forest Resource Plan and should be read in conjunction with that document.

When the plan and FEIS are adopted by the Board of Natural Resources, the plan will become the department's chief policy and planning document for the next 10 years (1992-2002). The plan will guide the department in managing 2.1 million acres of state forest land. The plan replaces the Forest Land Management Program (FLMP), which was adopted by the Board of Natural Resources in 1984.

1.2 THE DEPARTMENT'S LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

The department has a legal duty to produce long-term income for the public agencies, primarily schools and counties, which are the trust beneficiaries. In addition, it must comply with numerous state statutes, including the Multiple Use Act. See the introduction to the Forest Resource Plan for more information. The introduction to the comment section (Appendix C) in the FEIS contains a brief discussion of the trust mandate.

1.3 OVERVIEW OF STATE FOREST LANDS

There are three types of state forest land: Federal Grant (1.463 million acres); Forest Board (607,000 acres); and Community College Forest Reserve (3,223 acres). These lands -- 2.1 million acres in total -- are addressed by this plan. **Figure 1** shows the location of state forest lands. **Table 1** shows the types of land managed by the department and the acreage in each category.

1.4 INCOME FROM STATE FOREST LANDS

The department generates income for the trusts by selling to private companies the rights to cut timber from state forest lands. In 1990, the department generated \$189 million for the various trusts from state forest lands.

FIGURE 1
Location of State Forest Lands

WASHINGTON STATE FOREST LANDS
Managed by Department of Natural Resources

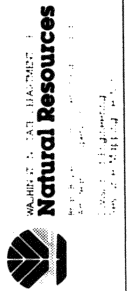
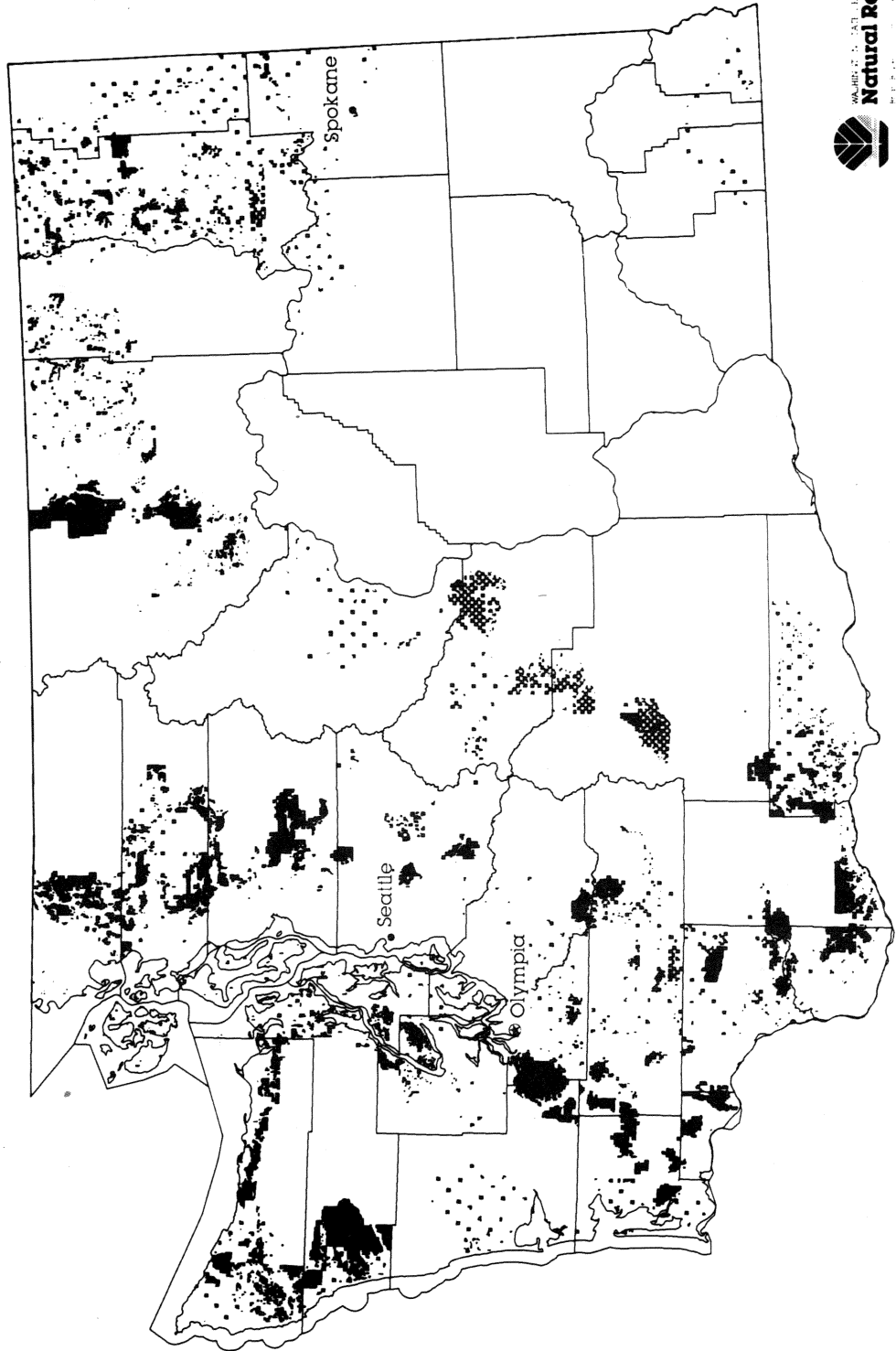


TABLE 1
State Forest Lands
 (Managed by the Department of Natural Resources)

<u>Federal Grant Trust Lands</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Common School	1,095,608
Agricultural	55,551
Charitable	38,302
University (original)	2,017
University (transferred)	53,599
Normal Schools	54,628
Scientific School	64,833
Capitol	98,460
<u>Forest Board Lands</u>	
Transfer	530,000
Purchase	77,000
<u>Community College Forest Reserve</u>	3,223
TOTAL	2,073,221*

* Rounded to 2.1 million acres for purposes of this document.

1.5 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The department considered numerous alternatives for each of the proposed policies in the Forest Resource Plan. Because the department is bound to comply with numerous statutes as well as the common law doctrine related to the duties of a trustee, only those alternatives that met the department's legal obligations were analyzed in this document.

The department selected the policies after considering the environmental consequences of each option. The FEIS describes the preferred policy, assesses the alternative(s) and why they were not selected by the department, and analyzes the environmental impacts of the specific policies under consideration.

For each policy, the department also considered adopting a "no policy" alternative, which is also discussed briefly. The no-policy alternative does not mean that the department will not engage in any of the activities at issue (for example, timber harvesting, road building, suppressing fires, etc.). Rather, the no-policy option means the department has chosen not to adopt a specific policy that clarifies or expands upon its responsibilities beyond what is required in law. Thus, the no-policy option represents a decision to comply with the appropriate statute, regulation or court ruling but not to engage in more comprehensive planning in the area.

1.6 DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

Chapter 2 contains a summary of the FEIS and a list of the preferred policies. **Chapter 3** analyzes the trust asset management policies and the alternatives considered by the department (and should be read in conjunction with Chapter 3 of the Forest Resource Plan). **Chapter 4** analyzes the forest land planning policies and alternatives. **Chapter 5** analyzes the silviculture policies and alternatives. **Chapter 6** analyzes the implementation policies and alternatives. **Chapter 7** describes existing environmental conditions. **Chapter 8** describes and analyzes the significant environmental impacts of the Forest Resource Plan. These environmental impacts are divided into three categories: physical, biological and social. The chapter also contains a discussion of mitigation measures and unavoidable adverse impacts. **Chapter 9** contains a glossary. Acknowledgements are in **Appendix A**, and the distribution list is in **Appendix B**.

The comments to the draft EIS are contained in a separate volume entitled **Public Comments**.

The policies (40 in total) are arranged in the same order as they appear in the Forest Resource Plan. The preferred policy appears in bold face type.

1.7 TERMINOLOGY

"State forest lands" refers to the 2.1 million acres of forested Federal Grant lands, Forest Board lands and Community College Forest Reserve lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources.

The Department of Natural Resources is referred to as "the department" and the "Forest Resource Plan" as "the plan."